

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

1943-1944

Special Collections
Annual Report
1943-1944

Low Memorial
Library
Building

The Committee on the re-study of the uses of the Low Memorial Library (1) reaffirmed the policy of the two library buildings for Columbia and the planned dependence of South Hall on Low Memorial Library. One major conclusion of importance to the Department of Special Collections was "that so long as it is agreed that rare books and special collections are to be housed in the Low Library, precedence should be given to these library uses, it being understood, of course, that this precedence should not extend to the major offices of administration or to the use of the rotunda for important University gatherings and exhibitions." Another conclusion of almost equal importance was that the exhibition program "would include not only books but also a rich variety of cultural materials, the scope being limited only by the general library and academic character of the building." This exhibition program which is to center in the Rotunda of the Low Memorial Library will have to await "(a) reconditioning the building, particularly the rotunda, (b) exhibition facilities, (c) the personnel to handle the expanded exhibit program, and (d) a more aggressive policy in this whole matter on the part of the University."

- (1) Collected Minutes and Reports of the Committee Appointed by Dr. Frank D. Fackenthal, February 21, 1944, To Re-Study the Coykendall Report of 1933 On the Uses of the Low Memorial Library. Dr. Carl M. White, Chairman, Mr. Philip M. Hayden, Mr. Henry McA. Schley, Mr. Milton H. Thomas, Mr. Charles M. Adams, Secretary, March, 1944."
:typewritten:

The first of these statements, especially, clarifies our position in The Libraries as a whole. A step which should greatly facilitate our planning has been the combining of the three major departments containing our more precious books, manuscripts, and special collections into the Department of Special Collections.⁽¹⁾ To have these policies stated, even though little can be done during the war period, has cleared the way for post-war planning of the development of Special Collections. With this basis to work upon during the next few years, it should be possible to proceed with the development of the library uses of this building in keeping with its architectural character and central location. The most important work of Special Collections during the next few years will be the planning of our program in such a way as to justify this allocation of our library resources, as well as adjusting our needs to other requirements of The Libraries and the University for space in this building.

ACQUISITIONS

Coykendall
Gift

Mr. Frederick Coykendall has presented The Libraries of Columbia University two more of his collections of modern first editions of English poets. The first is a collection of 170 editions of the writings of John Masefield. Beginning with his Salt-Water Ballads (London, 1902), Ballads (London, 1903) and A Mainsail Haul (London, 1905) the collection contains almost every first edition not only of his poetry but of his prose. Mr. Coykendall has

(1) Director's Memorandum 44-9, Department of Special Collections, June 5, 1944.

given preference to the English first edition but often has both that and the American which, in some cases, was actually the first publication. The other collection is the first editions of the writings of Richard Le Gallienne beginning with his The Student and The Body Snatcher 1890. This collection contains practically every edition listed in the Cambridge Bibliography of English Literature (1941) and many variants not recorded. All the copies in both these collections are in ideal collector's condition, and will be of great value not only to the bibliographer but also to the scholar who some day will wish to turn back to a detailed study of all the published writings of the two distinguished English writers.

This year Mr. Coykendall has gone back in the field of English literature for a collection of the works of the poet, Thomas Moore (1779-1852), to present The Libraries. This collection contains some twenty editions in their original boards and paper labels. Although this collection is by no means a complete collection of all the editions of Moore's writings, it is well selected and adds appreciably to the resources of The Libraries for the study of English literature during the first half of the 19th century.

The editions of a small group of the writings of some of the modern American poets were also included in his gifts to The Libraries this year. These were by Edwin Arlington Robinson, Stephen Vincent Benét, William Rose Benét, Robert Frost, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Conrad Aiken, Grace Conkling and Countée Cullen.

Another phase of Mr. Coykendall's interest in book collecting is represented by the collection of the imprints of the Pear Tree

Press of James Guthrie which were also included in his gift this year to Columbia. This press established at the turn of the century is one of the last of the great private presses established at that time. Included in the collection are a number of letters from James Guthrie concerning his work and two pictures of himself at his presses. This press was truly a private press - often experimenting in new forms of printing, upholding the tradition of beauty in hand-work, and successfully distributing new books which might not otherwise have been published to his friends and other admirers of his workmanship. This collection numbers some 75 volumes plus other smaller pieces. As many of the impressions of Pear Tree Press imprints are individual in their coloring and execution, no one will probably ever begin to have what could be called a complete collection. This collection gathered by Mr. Coykendall is probably the most complete so far collected in this country, and is a beautiful as well as valuable addition to the resources of The Libraries.

Benjamin
Gift

Mr. Henry Rogers Benjamin and his sister, Mrs. Aubrey Cartwright, presented The Libraries in August, 1943 the books collected by their father, the late William Evarts Benjamin. These books include a collection of manuscripts, first editions, and many beautifully bound volumes which will be designated as a memorial to their father. Other volumes will be added to The Park Benjamin Collection of Knickerbocker Literature established by William Evarts Benjamin during his lifetime. The remaining books, catalogs, and prints will form valuable additions to The Libraries.

Among the manuscripts mention should be made of:

- Book of Hours. Manuscript in Latin about 1450. 146 leaves on vellum with 10 full page and 20 small miniatures with borders in color.
- Boethius, Carmina. Manuscript in Latin of the 13th century. 58 leaves in Gothic script on vellum.
- Psalterium (ca. 1480) and Processionale, 15th century.

Some of the first editions which indicate the type of material are:

- Tennyson, Poems by Two Brothers, (1827).
- Conrad, The Nigger of the Marciissus, (1898).
- Stowe, Uncle Tom's Cabin, (1852).
- Byron, Mazeppa, (1819).
- Coleridge, Zapolya, (1817).
- Cooper, The History of the Navy of the United States, (1839).

Some of the early imprints of interest which might be mentioned are:

- John Saltmarsh, Poemata Sacra, (Cambridge, 1636).
- Emblemata Amatoria, (Amsterdam, 1618).
- Daniel, The Civile Wares between the Howses of Lancaster and Yorke, (London, 1609).

Other items of note are:

- Roger-Payne binding. La Liturgie ou Formulaire des Pieres Publiques, (London, 1788).
- Thomas Campbell, Life of Plutarch, (1841); with 260 pages of the original manuscript.
- Theophile Gautier, La Chaine D'Or (Paris, 1896) with colored illustrations.

Professor Neff Gift

In October 1943 the Columbia University Libraries received as a gift from Professor Emery E. Neff of the English Department five autograph letters from Edwin Arlington Robinson addressed to Professor Neff or Mrs. Neff. The letters indicate, in several instances, Robinson's opinion of certain of his own poems or books of poetry.

- 1929, July 6 - Discusses "Man against the Sky"
- 1930, Oct. 26 - Discusses "Glory of the Nightingales" which he believes contains some of his best work up to that time, mentioning that the book seems to puzzle the newspaper critics who "are writing some surpassing nonsense about it."
- 1932, Nov. 9 - Thanks for Mr. Neff's opinions on some of his (Robinson's) work with comments of his own on the same.

1934, April 18 - In answer to a suggestion that he (Robinson) have his voice recorded. Mentions "Man against the Sky".

1934, Dec. 25 - Thanks for the Neffs' appreciation of "Amaranth" and comments upon Leopardi and Tasso. "Poetry is liberty to be expressive in one way or another."

These letters will form an interesting and valuable addition to the manuscript collection in view of the first editions of Robinson's works which Mr. Coykendall is presenting to The Libraries. They will complement also a number of letters, written to Edmund Clarence Stedman by Mr. Robinson during the early years of his career in New York, which are a part of the Stedman Collection of books and manuscripts already in the Special Collections Department.

Gonzalez- Prada Papers

Two volumes of the Gonzalez-Prada family papers were recently presented to the University by Mrs. Alfredo Gonzalez-Prada. These papers are not only important as a geneological record of this distinguished Peruvian family, but also contain many significant documents relating to the colonial history in Peru during the 18th century and to the Spanish-American War of Independence during the early part of the 19th century.

Hill Gift

Lt. Col. John Warren Hill, 'll presented to us the collection of Lincoln material assembled by his father, the late Dr. John Wesley Hill. The library consists of over a thousand books, pamphlets, pictures and other memorabilia of Abraham Lincoln which will be added to the other Lincolniana now housed in the General Library and in Special Collections. Of chief interest were copies of the editions which Lincoln probably used in his study and reading. The collection forms an interesting opportunity to evaluate the reading and influence of ideas of books on Lincoln's career. In

all of the books a special gift bookplate has been inserted on which has been printed "Presented by John Warren Hill, '11, in memory of his father John Wesley Hill".

Epstean
Collection

Mr. Edward Epstean has added some 160 pieces to his collection on the history and science of photography. On the evening of May 24, 1944, the American Institute of Graphic Arts awarded to him their Institute Medal with the following citation:

"Lifelong student of photography and its practical and artistic uses in reproduction by means of mechanical processes, collector of a great library on these subjects and its generous donor for the public uses; Friend and Benefactor of the Graphic Arts."

The collection which he has presented to Columbia and added to year by year is now outstanding in its field. It exemplifies the motto which he had printed on the special bookplate made for books added by him to this collection. It is one of his favorite quotations from Virgil, Per varios casus, per tot discrimina rerum tendimus in Latium, which may be translated, "In the face of all hazards and notwithstanding all opposing circumstances we continue towards our goal." We gratefully acknowledge the continued interest of Mr. Epstean in his gifts to The Libraries.

Book Arts
293

Acquisitions by purchase from the Book Arts allotment (293) represent a wide variety of materials. The largest purchases were examples of modern Russian graphic arts - fine editions of Russian classics as well as modern literature. Mrs. Tarantini helped in the selection of this material and it was purchased from the point of view

of its possible use for an exhibition this coming year as well as providing a well selected collection of these books for student use. Other Book Arts acquisitions were The Aztec and Maya Papermakers by Victor Wolfgang Von Hagen; John Rewald's The Woodcuts of Aristide Maillol; a selection of modern English children's books; The Marion Press by Thomas A. and Amy Hopkins Larremore; keepsakes and publications of the American Institute of Graphic Arts; and the Luis L. Gotelli's Argentina type specimen book. The current reference books in the Book Arts field as well as other current tools for the use of Special Collections were acquired from this fund.

American Literature

In the field of American literature a number of valuable first editions of American authors chiefly of the 19th century were acquired. Mention may be made of Charles Brocken Brown's Wieland (New York, 1798) and Edgar Huntley (Philadelphia, 1799-1800); William Gilmore Simms' The Yemassee; Sidney Lanier's Centennial Meditation of Columbia (New York, 1876) and Thoreau's Cape Cod (1865 edition and illustrated 1896 edition).

Other gifts which should be noted are four examples of the work of Frank Easton Hopkins, founder of the Marion Press presented to the Book Arts Collection by Mrs. Amy Hopkins Larremore. Dr. Ida G. Everson, who has just published her study of George Henry Calvert, presented The Libraries with some fourteen first editions of his work. (Most of this material was sent to be classified in the stacks of South Hall.) Mrs. Clara T. Evans continues her interest of many years in the Bookplate Collection, and has presented a number of interesting plates to the collection. The Board of Trustees of the Seventh Church of Christ Scientist presented the descriptive leaflet

to accompany the 1941 edition of Science and Health designed by William Dana Orcutt which volume they presented to us last year.

EXHIBITIONS

Because of the combination of the care of special collections with the responsibility for an exhibition program for the Main Library and the Low Memorial Library, exhibitions have been one of our major activities. Three major exhibitions were held in the Rotunda and Main Exhibition Room in Low Memorial Library.

1. ENGLISH BROADSIDES AND PROCLAMATIONS, selected from the Seligman Library of Economics. (Library Columns, no. 1, VII, 14, November 3, 1943).

2. CORBACHO COLLECTION OF HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE CONQUEST AND INDEPENDENCE OF SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES. (Library Columns, no. 3, VII, 1, April 20, 1944). This exhibition was held on April 14 to help commemorate Pan American Day on which occasion exercises were held in the Rotunda.

3. SELECTIONS FROM THE WILLIAM BARCLAY PARSONS RAILWAY PRINTS, 1820 - 1880. (Library Columns, no. 4, VII, 12, July 1944).

In South Hall a number of interesting shows were put on display.

4. MODERN PRINTING IN MEXICO, Lent by Dr. Edward Larocque Tinker. (Library Columns, no. 1, VII, 14, and no. 3, VII, 5). The Book Arts Press printed a small poster for this show reproducing one of the Posada woodcuts.

5. 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY PRESS. (See "50 Candles" in the Columbia Alumni News, no. 3, XXXV, 5-6, with illustration). Copies of the anniversary catalog with a short history of the Press were distributed to those requesting it during

the period of this exhibition.

6. LINCOLNIANA IN THE COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES, including the books, manuscripts, and prints recently presented to the University by John Warren Hill, '11 in memory of his father, John Wesley Hill. A small leaflet was published for this occasion for which there have been numerous requests.

Some smaller exhibitions filled a number of purposes which we hope to develop more by the use of exhibitions. On a number of occasions a selection of interesting outstanding recent acquisitions were shown. It is felt that the cases, especially those by the main lobby of South Hall, are especially suited to this purpose, and it is hoped that more of this type of work can be done to bring to the attention of the whole University community some of the outstanding acquisitions being made by departments or the general library.

Small gifts were recognized and called to the attention of the University community by the use of the Lobby cases in South Hall. In this way we recognized the gift of the Gonzalez-Fruda manuscripts; the gift of the four ^(A. E.) Robinson letters by Professor Neff and the collection of his first editions by Mr. Coykendall; the first editions of Max Beerbohm by Mr. Coykendall.

Other small exhibitions of interest were held:

² Sofia Kossak, a selection of her books of which The Libraries has a fine collection. (see notice by Marion Coleman in The Polish Review, no. 16, IV, 7, April 25, 1944); Exhibition of Gold Rush, a recent University Press publication; Illustration of

original volumes from the collection referred to in the recent work of Otto Benesch, From Rubens to Daumier and Cuneiform Tablets in The Libraries illustrating Dr. Mendelsohn's new book.

TECHNICAL SERVICES

Cataloging

The normal routine of books for Special Collections after purchase is to have them sent to Low Memorial Library. Gifts often arrive directly. A preliminary record is made on which the collection into which they are to be classed is indicated and special subject headings are requested if necessary and bibliographical notes indicated. This year some 1015 books were sent to the Catalog Department this way (column A below). The books are returned from the Catalog Department and later official cards for our catalog in Special Collections are sent over. Cards for some 1799 titles were received (column B below). The difference is accounted for chiefly by the cards for books from the Park Benjamin Collection and the Bronson Howard Collection, both of which are in South Hall and no preliminary cards were prepared by us. A small amount of cataloging of material is ^{which} done/ goes only into special catalogs in our Reading Room, such as some of the manuscript material and broadsides. There were 124 pieces cataloged in this way (column C below). Cards for large collections of manuscripts are made for the General Catalog. It is hoped we can do more detailed cataloging of some of these collections.

	A.	B.	C.	D (1)	D (2)
July 1943	100	127	25	5	12
Aug.	39	369	1	20	35
Sept.	151	135	0	9	3
Oct.	54	286	33	28	7
Nov.	85	136	49	22	0
Dec.	79	140	0	17	0
Jan. 1944	93	58	0	25	0
Feb.	115	76	15	26	0
March	45	239	2	40	0
April	122	40	0	66	0
May	61	142	0	49	0
June	74	51	0	27	0
	<u>1015</u>	<u>1799</u>	<u>124</u>	<u>334</u>	<u>57</u>
	1144	937	80	169	21

A. - Books sent to Catalog Department.

B. - Books for which cards have been received from the
Catalog Department.

C. - Cataloged by Special Collections (mss. and broadsides).

D. - Binding: (1) Sent out to Binding Department.

(2) Temporary tie-in-boards.

Binding

Fewer books than ever were sent out this year to be bound. The chief reason is the fact that the binderies are not so well equipped to do special repair work and bindings often needed for books in Special Collections.

Care of Books

Some work on book oiling has been done, but since the hours on page service have been cut, this type of work has been also cut down.

We keep at book oiling, however, as regularly as possible. Our books have not been cleaned for sometime, but we have decided we would prefer not to have them cleaned to running the risk of indifferent or careless handling. The only real solution to this problem will be the conditioning of our stack areas and this cannot be considered for sometime yet. A large cabinet was ordered to take care of our elephant folio volumes and boxes. It has been completed and is in place. It is the first time that such precious volumes as Audubon's Birds, and the Parsons' Prints have not been stacked in some make-shift fashion. The counter top of this cabinet also provides a good working space.

USE OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Statistics on the use of Special Collections, 1943/44, summarized from the monthly reports.

	<u>I,1,C</u>	<u>I,2,C</u>	<u>II,2</u>	<u>IV,2</u>	<u>Readers</u>
1943 July	434	1	0	57	240
Aug.	150	3	0	48	95
Sept.	92	1	0	13	50
Oct.	192	4	0	20	66
Nov.	138	6	0	31	59
Dec.	328	9	0	66	86
1944 Jan.	221	6	8	51	72
Feb.	152	5	0	27	77
March	191	0	0	40	74
April	180	1	0	27	68
May	180	3	0	37	48
June	127	0	0	21	49
	<u>2384</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>438</u>	<u>984</u>

A comparison by years since 1938/39 is as follows:

1938/39	4291				
1939/40	6159				
1940/41	10099	203	802		1871
1941/42	8163	123	151	702	1628
1942/43	3302	69	21	1004	1146
1943/44	2384	37	8	438	984
1944/45	2450	16	9	23	830
	3423	15	1	422	830

As these figures indicate there has been a steady decline in the use of materials in Special Collections. I believe this decline can be attributed almost completely to the war and its indirect effects on graduate student work.

STAFF

Miss Bonnell is acting in charge of the Reading Room of Special Collections in the west wing of Low Memorial Library. Her work has been very satisfactory. Besides keeping the regular service of the Reading Room progressing, she supervises the preparing of preliminary cards for cataloging, and the subject headings, classification and filing in all the special catalogs. She also does work on the cataloging of manuscripts and broadsides which we file now only in our catalogs. She has been sorting and arranging the Melvil Dewey Papers. She also has helped with exhibition work. Considering the large turnover in clerical and student assistant help (or its equivalent) the work has gone along smoothly.

Miss Cushing's time during the year has been divided as follows:

Administrative typing and dictation.....	51%
Stenographic work for Mr. Hamlin.....	22%
Stenographic work for Mr. Angell.....	12%
Stenographic and typing work for exhibitions - labels, letters, reports.....	6%
Other work.....	9%
	<u>100%</u>

More and more responsibility has been falling to Miss Cushing not only in her secretarial work, but also in giving information and directions to readers and visitors who come first to this office. She has shown real capability in handling many situations, and makes it possible for me to be away from my office and yet feel that everything will be

handled satisfactorily. In a department such as ours, a continuity in staff becomes very valuable.

We have suffered from the lack of good clerical and page help but no comment probably needs to be made on this situation. Such help has been only fair. Clerical help becomes useful only after considerable training. Even then it is doubtful how much a non-professional assistant, even after a year's experience, should be left alone in our Reading Room.

My own time has been divided between Special Collections and related activities as Assistant to the Director. Because of the turnover in our staff, it has been necessary to help carry on some of the routine work and be available as much as possible as an alternate for Miss Bonnell in the Reading Room. Editorship of Library Columns has been, so to speak, one of my chief extra-curriculum activities. Membership in the American Institute of Graphic Arts gave me an opportunity to speak on our Epstein Collection of Photography at the meeting when they presented Mr. Epstein with their Institute Medal. Mr. Epstein has induced me to help him have published by the Columbia University Press his translation of Eder's Geschichte der Photographie. Although I do this work after regular office hours, considerable library time has been devoted to helping Mr. Epstein's project.

1944/45

A number of special problems are before us for the coming year. Some of these might be noted:

1. Combining of administrative and service problems of Plimpton, Dale and Smith Libraries; Typographic Library; and Special Collections of the West Wing of Low Memorial Library. As our problems and materials from a library point of view are very similar, we have a good basis for developing our common needs so that we can not only help each other but also give better service.

2. Develop some policies of acquisitions so that materials for which we are essentially responsible are not slipping by us. This will involve chiefly a study of our collections so that we will know what we need to acquire to develop strength. Also important we should like to relate these collections and their needs to the general development of the libraries. Too often materials are discovered classified in the wrong collections both here and in South Hall. A careful statement of the scope and strength of our collections with an indication of our aims should be of help in getting the right book in the right place.

3. Study of catalog work in order to get at the backlog of uncataloged materials especially the Seligman Collection and the Typographic Library.

4. Care and arrangement of recent manuscript collections: Melvil Dewey Papers, Stedman manuscripts, Benjamin manuscripts, Conway papers, and Harris-Oliphant papers, etc.

5. The development of the Park Benjamin Collection so that services on these books can be given in Low Memorial Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles M. Adams

To the Director of Libraries:

Sir:

As curator of the Plimpton, Smith and Dale Libraries I have the honor to present the following report for the academic year ending June 30, 1944.

The major part of Mr. Ives' work this year was concerned with the most valuable of all our offices (De Ricci Census no. 58), familiarly known as the "Alcuin codex" as it contains a collection of ten treatises probably brought together by Alcuin or by his authority. Written in the early ninth century and thus contemporary with Alcuin, it antedates by three centuries any other manuscript in the United States which is connected with the name of this famous scholar. Although not artistically an outstanding example of Carolingian calligraphy, textually it is proving to be of considerable interest and importance. So far, Mr. Ives' study has been concerned with the treatise intitled, Expositio Sancti Evangelii (fol. 10 - 67), a commentary on the Gospels ascribed to the well-known sixth century pope, Gregory the Great, although apparently he only edited or revised the work. It is known in several variant forms, one of which has been appended to the works of St. Jerome as published in Migne's Patrologia Latina, though this version is considerably shorter than that in our manuscript, and the comparison of the two works holds good only for certain large

portions of the entire treatise.

In content the treatise is actually far from original, both as to its statements and method of presentation. Rather does it appear to be merely a paraphrasing of certain Scriptural all-gories, derived mainly from such famous exegetes as Jerome, Origen and Augustine. Hence, it would appear that the actual authorship, even if determinable, is probably insignificant. For there is evidence that the treatise was a very popular one in the early middle ages, since it is known to occur, in one form or another, in many manuscripts, though apparently in no other codex in America.

Such a sterile production might, therefore, be readily relegated to the vast heap of Gospel expositions and commentaries turned out in bulk during the early medieval centuries, especially in Carolingian times, were it not for the countless Scriptural citations made throughout the text. Examination of these citations indicates that our codex is an important source for the study of the transmission of the Gospel text, since, without exception, the quotations are all found to attest the Old Latin, or pre-Jerome Bible, as against the Vulgate text. Witnesses to this ancient version of the New Testament are indeed rare, and are all of great value, as contributions to our knowledge of the textual tradition of the New Testament. Since the Scriptural citations in the version printed in Migne are all according to the Vulgate, representing a collation of

many manuscripts of the work, it is probable that this was the usual form and that the older version in our codex is an exception therefore of considerable importance.

For this reason it has been thought advisable to prepare material for a possible edition of the work. To this end, the treatise has been entirely transcribed, and an examination of the Scriptural citations is in progress. When all these have been collated, they will be arranged according to the text of the Bible and appended to the text of the treatise itself, thereby forming a sizable addition to our knowledge of the Old Latin Bible, besides imparting a peculiar value to our codex.

When completed, the whole work will pose several interesting and important questions which will call for further scholarly investigation, such as the following: 1) The reason for the survival of the older Latin text in a ninth century Carolingian codex which would normally have been corrected to accord with the Vulgate. 2) The implications latent in the fact that this codex was probably copied from a Visigothic manuscript: its relationship to Spanish Bibles of earlier centuries, as well as to the Celtic-Northumbrian Vulgate text which it attests wherever coincident with the Old Latin. 3) The apparent revision by Gregory of the anonymous Expositio as given in our codex: its importance and influence on later forms of the same treatise.

Careful study was also given to an early eleventh century Greek Lectionary of the Gospels (De Ricci Census no. 2). While our codex is incomplete fortunately some parts of the missing sections have been found to be in the possession of the Chapin Library, Williams College. This discovery was brought out in 1957 through Kenneth W. Clark's A Descriptive Catalogue of Greek New Testament Manuscripts in America.

By comparing this work with other Greek Lectionaries, Mr. Ives found as many as sixty-four places where our codex attested sources older than the Byzantine recension. In a number of these it was found to be affiliated with the Old Syriac, the Old Latin and the Armenian, besides the Greek tradition, while a few of the readings were unique. The manuscript is valuable as a monument of Byzantine liturgy, for there were several cases where our codex presented entirely different and seemingly individual readings for certain days, contrary to normal lectionary practice.

Thus do these textual discoveries bear out the tradition attached to the Plimpton Collection of medieval manuscripts, that it is the only large collection in the country whose items were selected because of their contents rather than their physical features alone. As the great Seymour De Ricci himself said "It ... offers, almost unlimited scope for historical and literary research."

Miss Schild devoted most of her time to continuing the

cataloging of books in the language section, mainly works on the English language (dictionaries, spellers and grammars printed in England and in the United States), one of our largest and most important fields. Although the cataloging of them is not yet finished, already the collection reveals more than a thousand volumes. With the completion of this section all the books for study of language will be cataloged, the foreign language sections having been cataloged in the preceding year.

Miss Schild also worked with the Smith collection of Indic manuscripts, working out a concordance of numbers between the entries in the Poleman Census of Indic Manuscripts and the Smith numbers. (Mr. Poleman considered this collection the largest in the United States)

The curator continued with the cataloging of books in the history of mathematics. All the Newton works have now been cataloged, thus bringing out clearly our riches in this field.

The current exhibition was set up for the benefit of our many visitors who are in the United States service. Entitled, "The Art of War on Land and Sea" the books, maps, and scientific instruments show military and naval life and methods of bygone days. This extensive exhibition was made possible by generous loans from Avery, East Asiatic, Engineering, Fine Arts and Special Collections to supplement our own resources.

The Plimpton Library was well represented in an exhibition of American Calligraphy held at the Grolier Club in February.

The eighty items lent were selected by Prof. Ray Nash of the Department of Art and Archaeology at Dartmouth who gave an address at the opening of the exhibition.

The Newberry Library in Chicago then borrowed seventy of our American penmanship copybooks for an exhibition somewhat on the line of the one held at the Grolier Club. These items, although far from being our rarest pieces (which we would not have consented to lend) were chosen because they were not in the Ricketts Calligraphy Collection at the Newberry Library. Since that is one of the outstanding collections in the field in this country, our loan indicates to some extent the wealth of our holdings.

Although few books were acquired this year, as has been the case ever since the war began, one item was obtained which would stand out for its importance at any time. This is the Tratado da Pratica d'Arismetica of Gaspar Nicolas published in Lisbon in 1559. First issued in 1519, its popularity was such that at least five more editions came out in the sixteenth century (our copy is apparently the fourth edition) and at least one each in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. A good idea of its rarity can be obtained from the fact that not one of the editions is mentioned in D. E. Smith's Rara Arithmetica. No copy of a sixteenth century edition is listed in the Union Catalogue nor in the catalogue of the British Museum and the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris. Harvard has an edition of 1613 and the

British Museum's only copy seems to be that of 1716. While any scholarly library might well be proud to possess this book, it assumes a much larger significance for the Plimpton Library since it is believed to have the largest collection of arithmetics printed before 1601 of any library in the world.

The book buying fund of the Plimpton Library was augmented by one hundred dollars through the sale of one of our three copies of Greenwood's Arithmetick, 1729 (first arithmetic written by an American) to the University of Michigan.

As usual, classes from several different departments of the University as well as groups from other institutions were brought to this Library for study of various subjects and types of material.

Considerable use of our Library through the medium of photostats was made by out-of-town scholars. The largest and most significant project was the photographing of seventeen of our Indic manuscripts (370 exposures with four pages to a sheet) for Prof. Otto Neugebauer at Brown University. This outstanding scholar has also made use of our cuneiform tablets, publishing his discoveries and proclaiming the value and importance of our collections.

It is probably no accident that knowledge of our holdings in both the above fields has been made possible because of published catalogs, namely H. I. Poleman's Census of Indic Manuscripts in the United States and Canada, 1938, and Isaac

Mendelsohn's Catalogue of the Babylonian Tablets in the Libraries of Columbia University, 1943. It seems fairly evident that if means for publishing catalogues for other important sections of the Library were available, scholars would be able to utilize our collections so that their immense value would be more apparent.

In March the Holmes Protective Association installed a unit to replace the defunct "electric eye". The system is working smoothly and requires very little technical attention from our non-technically minded staff - the "electric eye" was constantly needing assistance of a kind it was impossible for us to render. It is a source of satisfaction to know that ^{our} treasures are at last receiving the protection they deserve.

STAFF.

Mr. Ives aided in the publication of Gustave Cohen's Geoffroy Tory and Catherine de Medici by translating the introduction and notes from the French into English.

Mr. Ives has taken two more of his written examinations required for the Ph. D. degree in classics and has commenced work on his dissertation. This ^study is to deal with the papyrus collection at Columbia and will include a short-title catalogue of the same.

Miss Schild is adding to her already comprehensive knowledge of languages by taking a course in elementary Russian at City College.

An article written by the curator (with collaboration from Mr. Ives for Latin texts) entitled, "Calendar Reform across Eighteen Centuries" appeared in Fall and Winter Quarter numbers of the Journal of Calendar Reform. Since the article dealt with material in Columbia Libraries a certain amount of publicity was gained.

The curator has begun (first six chapters written) a book dealing with the vellum codex from its first general use in the fourth century to the invention of printing in the fifteenth century. The work will attempt to show the book of the middle ages in its paleographical, textual and artistic aspects as an adjunct to medieval life.

Respectfully submitted,

Aug. 11, 1944